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PAN FINALS AT SKINNER PARK TOMORROW

By SEETA PERSAD

THE MUCH anticipated Carnival event, the 2007 Panorama Finals, will be staged for the first time ever at Skinner Park in San Fernando tomorrow night. The competition will see eight large bands and seven medium bands in heated battle for pan supremacy.

The show, considered the heartbeat of the Carnival in TT, is expected to draw a large crowd at the southern venue. The defending champions, Phase II Pan Groove, will perform in seventh position in the conventional band category.

Checks at Pan Trinbago's office for the prize structure for this year's competition proved futile as chairman Patrick Arnold was in meetings all morning yesterday.

Meanwhile, San Fernando Mayor Kenneth Ferguson assured the media that all is ready for pan in South, and he expects the show to flow smoothly tomorrow night.

The Woodbrook-based Phase II Pan Groove emerged as the top band during the semi-final round held on February 4 on the "Greens" at the Queen's Park Savannah, playing "Sharing Licks" arranged by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe.

Many South-based bands have appeared in the finals over the years, but none of the big names in steelpan from South has been selected for the final competition this year. The decision by Panorama



judges to eliminate South bands has caused some controversy and could cause some southerners to avoid the Pan

DEFENDING champion Phase II Pan Groove is ready for the 2007 battle.

Finals. The TCL Skiffle Bunch chairman has called on southerners to come to the finals at Skinner Park.

Kicking off the competition, which is scheduled to begin at 5 pm, will be Excellent Stores Silver Stars, while the lone San Fernando band in the medium category, Lee Chongs Pan Glow, will follow in second position.

In the large band category, Sagicor Exodus will appear first on stage followed by BP Renegades and Caribbean Airlines Invaders.

Meanwhile, Skinner Park has undergone a major facelift to accommodate the finals including the construction of a \$300,000 stage, additional stands along the western side of the stage, and gate extensions.

The draw for playing positions took place yesterday at NCC TV, Lady Young Road, Morvant yesterday.

Following is the order of appearance, tune of choice and arranger:

Conventional bands — medium:

1. Excellent Stores Silver Stars, "Soca is it," Edwin Pouchet
2. Lee Chongs Pan Glow, "Band from Space," Amrit Samaroo
3. Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille, "Johnny," Ken "Professor" Philmore
4. Harmonites, "Sylvie breakaway," Earl La Pierre
5. Carib Dixieland, "Pan Lamentation," Len "Boogsie" Sharpe
6. Clico Sforzata, "Calypso Music," Yohan Popwell
7. Katzenjammers, "Pan Lamentation," Sydney Joseph
8. Arima Angel Harps, "I dare you," Godwin Bowen.

Conventional bands — large:

1. Sagicor Exodus, "We Jammin Again," Pelham Goddard
2. BP Renegades, "Band From Space," Jit Samaroo
3. Caribbean Airline Invaders, "Pan Lamentation," Arddin Herbert
4. Tropical Angel Harps, "Pan Lamentation," Clarence Morris
5. WITCO Desperadoes, "Band From Space," Andre Robley, Curtis Edwards, and Robert Greenidge
6. PCS Starlift, "We just can't go on like this," Ray Holman
7. Phase II Pan Groove, "Sharing Licks," Len "Boogsie" Sharpe
8. Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars, "Pan Lamentation," Leon "Smooth" Edwards.